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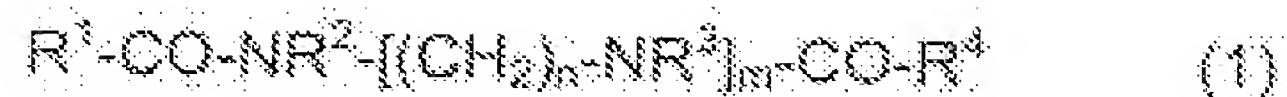
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CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An ethoxylated derivative of an amidoamine according to the general formula (1):



in which R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 independently of one another represent a hydrogen atom, a branched or unbranched alkyl or alkenyl group containing 5 to 23 carbon atoms or a $CO-CH=CH-COOH$ group and n is a number of 1 to 6 and m is a number of 1 to 8, as an emulsifier in drilling fluids which contain at least one continuous oil phase, an aqueous phase and additives.

2. The derivative according to Claim 1, wherein the derivative contains 1 to 10 parts ethylene oxide per part amidoamine according to formula (1).
3. The derivative according to Claim 1, wherein the derivative contains 1 to 7 parts ethylene oxide per part amidoamine according to formula (1).
4. The derivative according to Claim 1, wherein the derivative contains 1 to 5 parts ethylene oxide per part amidoamine according to formula (1).

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5. The derivative according to Claim 1, wherein R^1 and R^4 represent an alkyl and/or alkenyl group containing 5 to 23 carbon atoms and R^3 is a CO-CH=CH-COOH group and/or hydrogen atom.
6. The derivative according to Claim 1, wherein the compound according to formula (1) is produced by reaction of a tall oil fatty acid with an oligo- or polyethylene amine.
7. The derivative according to Claim 6, wherein the polyethylene amine is selected from the group consisting of: diethylene triamine, triethylene tetramine, tertaethylene pentamine, and mixtures thereof.
8. The derivative according to Claim 1, present as an emulsifier in a drilling fluid in an amount of about 0.1 to 25% by weight of the total weight of drilling fluid.
9. The derivative according to Claim 1, present as an emulsifier in a drilling fluid in an amount of about 0.1 to 10% by weight of the total weight of drilling fluid.
10. The derivative according to Claim 1, present as an emulsifier in a drilling fluid in an amount of about 0.1 to 5% by weight of the total weight of drilling fluid.
11. The derivative according to Claim 1, wherein the drilling fluid is a water-in-oil fluid.

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12. The derivative according to Claim 1, wherein the drilling fluid further comprises a component selected from the group consisting of: a weighting agent, a fluid loss additive, a wetting agent, an alkali reserve, a thickener, a biocide and mixtures thereof.

13. The derivative according to Claim 1, wherein the derivative is produced by reaction of amidoamines according to formula (1) with ethylene oxide at temperatures of 100 to 150°C in the presence of a catalyst selected from the group consisting of potassium hydroxide or sodium methylate.

14. The derivative according to Claim 1, wherein the derivative is produced by reaction of amidoamines according to formula (1) with ethylene oxide at temperatures of 110 to 140°C in the presence of a catalyst selected from the group consisting of potassium hydroxide or sodium methylate.

15. A composition, comprising:

an ethoxylated derivative of an amidoamine according to the general formula (1):



in which R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 independently of one another represent a hydrogen atom, a branched or unbranched alkyl or alkenyl group

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containing 5 to 23 carbon atoms or a CO-CH=CH-COOH group and n is a number of 1 to 6 and m is a number of 1 to 8; and

a continuous oil phase in admixture with a limited quantity of a disperse aqueous phase (w/o invert type).

16. The composition according to Claim 15, further comprising a component selected from the group consisting of a weighting agent, a fluid loss additive, a wetting agent, an alkali reserve, a thickener, a biocide and mixtures thereof.

17. The composition according to Claim 15, wherein the continuous oil phase is selected from a group consisting of:

(a) carboxylic acid esters corresponding to formula (II): $\text{R}'\text{-COO-R}''$
(II)

where R' is saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched C_{5-23} alkyl group and R'' is a C_{1-22} alkyl group which may be saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched;

(b) linear or branched C_{8-20} olefins;

(c) water-insoluble, symmetrical or nonsymmetrical ethers of monohydric alcohols of natural or synthetic origin which may contain 1 to 24 carbon atoms;

(d) water-insoluble alcohols corresponding to formula (III): $\text{R}'''\text{-OH}$
where R''' is a saturated, unsaturated, linear or branched C_{8-24} alkyl group;

(e) carbonic acid esters;

(f) paraffins; and

(g) acetals.